Amendments to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (*Previously presented*) A method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities having security mode settings and including:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor:

one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group;

at least one of the other of said computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the particular group;

at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave computer entities of the particular group;

said method comprising performing the following steps for each of the groups:

attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;

checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group; and

if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same

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security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

22. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 21 wherein the checking step is performed before said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group joins the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is excluded from the particular group without ever joining the particular group.

23. (*Previously presented*) A method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities having at least one domain and comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor;

one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group;

at least one of the other of said computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the particular group;

at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave computer entities of the particular group;

said method comprising performing the following steps for each of the groups:

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attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;

checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group; and

if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group, preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the checking step is performed before said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group joins the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is excluded from the particular group without ever joining the particular group.

25. (Previously presented) A method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device; and

a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor;

one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group; the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave

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computer entities of the particular group;

at least one of the other of said computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the particular group;

said method comprising:

attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;

determining whether said master computer entity of the particular group has a DHCP configuration;

in response to said master computer entity of the particular group being determined as having a DHCP configuration, determining if the master computer entity of the particular group can use UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group by name;

in response to the master computer entity of the particular group being determined to be able to use UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group by name, causing the master computer entity of the particular group to determine if the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group can use UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to the particular group by name;

determining if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the DHCP configuration;

in response to said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group being determined not to have the DHCP configuration, preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

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26. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 25 wherein each of the steps thereof is performed before said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group joins the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is excluded from the particular group without ever joining the particular group.

27. (*Previously presented*) In combination, a first headless computer entity capable of being a master computer entity for a group of headless computer entities;

at least one additional second headless computer entity coupled with said first computer entity;

each of said computer entities comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor; the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said first computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said first computer entity to one or more of the second computer entities via a network connection, one of the second computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the group; the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said first computer entity being arranged to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the group so said slave computer entity candidate of the group can be set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said first computer entity; each of said

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computer entities having operating characteristics; the at least one data processor of the first computer entity being arranged for (a) checking, via the network, whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has at least one of the same operating characteristics as the first computer entity, and (b) preventing said slave computer entity candidate from being a member of the group if said slave computer entity candidate does not have the same operating characteristics as a predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity.

28. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 27 wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is security.

29. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 27 wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is domain.

30. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 27 wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is configuration.

31. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 30 wherein the configuration is DHCP.

32. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 30 wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics is UPD broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to the group by name, followed by a determination that the slave computer entity candidate can be configured

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for DHCP.

33. (*Previously presented*) The combination of claim 27 wherein the predetermined one of the operating conditions is UPD broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to the group by name.

34.-44. (*Canceled*)

45. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 21 wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group.

46. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 23 wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group.

47. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 25 wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said

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master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group

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